

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed May 5, 2005, Applicant amends claims 12, 17, 18, 20, and 25 and adds new claim 26. Claims 12 and 14-26 are presented for examination.

Priority

The examiner draws attention to an omission in the priority claim signed by the inventors. The applicant requests that the issue of the priority date be held in abeyance while the applicant obtains a signed supplemental declaration and forwards it to the examiner.

Specification

The examiner has objected to the specification for including sentences that appear to be incomplete. The applicant acknowledges the objection and asks that the objection be held in abeyance while the applicant obtains and forwards a clean copy of the specification to the examiner.

Claim objections

The examiner has objected to claims 12, 17, and 20 due to informalities. The applicant has amended claims 12, 17, and 20. Therefore, these objections should be withdrawn.

Allowable subject matter

The applicant acknowledges the allowable subject matter of claims 12 and 14-17.

Claim rejections under §103(a)

The examiner has also rejected claims 18-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being rendered obvious by *Neuhaus* (5,903,565).

Neuhaus describes “switching” by enabling and disabling bus drivers and bus receivers. As recited in *Neuhaus*, “the individual bus systems 1 or 2 can be switched on or off with the aid of the control signals (83, 84)” (col. 4, lines 55-56).

In contrast, amended claim 18, recites a switching device that includes a first switch and a second switch connected in parallel. To the extent that *Neuhaus's* bus drivers and receivers might be considered a "switching device," they do not amount to a switching device having a first switch and a second switch connected in parallel. In addition, each of *Neuhaus's* bus drivers and receivers are connected to multiple bus lines. For example, as shown in *Neuhaus's* FIG. 2, receiver 38 is connected to two bus lines (i.e., *both* CAN_H and CAN_L). In contrast, amended claim 18 recites a switching device that includes a first switch associated with a first bus line and a second switch associated with a second bus line. *Neuhaus* fails to disclose or suggest a switching device having these limitations.

Claims 19-25 depend from claim 18 and are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 18.

Summary

It is believed that all of the rejections have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.


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Serial No. : 10/089,650
Filed : April 1, 2002
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No additional fees are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this response.
However, to the extent fees are due, or if a refund is forthcoming, please adjust our deposit
account 06-1050, referencing attorney docket "12816-046US1."

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 27, 2005


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